

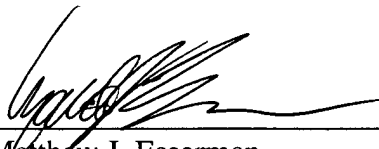
REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 12-21, 23, 25-28, 32-43, and 46-48 have been canceled. Claims 44, 45, 49, and 50 are therefore pending.

Without conceding validity of the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 3, 5-8, 12-21, 23, 25-28, 32-43, and 46-48 solely to expedite prosecution of the present application. Thus, the cancellation of these claims should not be construed to be an admission of unpatentability of the invention. Applicant submits that since the rejected claims have all been cancelled, the rejections have been rendered moot. As such, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending independent claims 44 and 49 are in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are allowable, because such claims depend from an allowable base claim. Reconsideration and further examination of the present application is therefore requested, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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